



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

It was a busy week in the beautiful Granite State. Here's how I spent the first week of the August district work period.

Making headway on in-state access for New Hampshire veterans

Yesterday I joined U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, the rest of New Hampshire's Congressional delegation, Governor Chris Sununu, and VA leaders at the Manchester VA Medical Center to tour the facility and hold a town hall with employees.

The current situation is clearly unacceptable, and I am insisting that the VA do everything in its power to provide New Hampshire veterans with timely, high-quality care and also to fully cooperate with the concurrent investigations so we can get to the root of these problems and make sure they never happen again.

During his visit, Secretary Shulkin made a firm commitment to implementing needed reforms and investments at our Manchester VA with the urgency New Hampshire veterans expect and deserve. These include \$30 million to repair flood damage, create a new Office of Community Care, and continue new construction. He also announced that the VA will begin leasing space to deliver some medical services at Catholic Medical Center.

Finally, Secretary Shulkin announced the creation of a task force that will work to find the best way for New Hampshire veterans to receive all their care in-state. This is a needed change that I have been working to achieve for years. This January, I reintroduced the Veterans Health Equity Act, a bill that would remedy New Hampshire's status as the only state in the nation without a full-service VA hospital or equivalent access. The bill has been cosponsored by every member of the New Hampshire delegation, Republican and Democratic, since I first introduced it in 2008.

Around the District

This week I visited [Shoals Marine Laboratory](#), an education and research facility on Appledore Island that is operated jointly by UNH and Cornell University. During the visit, I discussed marine and coastal ecosystem sustainability with Shoals students and researchers. They are doing great work to advance our understanding of coastal ecosystems and to develop strategies that can protect the Seacoast's natural marine heritage. Scientific research helps us understand the world around us, and it's essential to keep supporting it.

I was so impressed by the vision and dedication of [Lydia's House of Hope](#) founder Theresa Tozier, Somersworth-area business and community leaders, and so many supporters. The all-hands-on-deck community effort made this transitional home for homeless moms and kids a reality in just 5 months!

The progress the women at Lydia's are making is remarkable, and I applaud the hard work of these women and the community that is supporting these new beginnings.

It was a pleasure to present The Congressional Award medal to Dana from Freedom for her community spirit, dedication, and hard work to complete the goals she set for herself as a participant in this wonderful program for young Americans.

For more pictures of this week's meetings, check out the [Facebook album](#).

Standing up for the Granite State

I was outraged by President Trump's comments about New Hampshire. To talk about our neighbors and friends who are suffering in such a dismissive way by calling us a "drug-infested den" is simply unacceptable. New Hampshire won't let this crisis define us. Instead, it's our response to this crisis that shows what makes this state great.

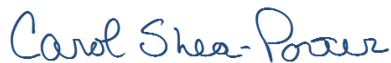
While the President is wrong about New Hampshire, he has also failed to keep his campaign promise help us fight the heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid crisis. We need new recovery facilities now. I called on him to stop attacking health care and make the investments he promised.

Closing thoughts

This week, Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation [impaneled](#) a federal grand jury. This indicates that the investigation has entered a new phase. I was pleased to see my Republican colleagues in the Senate introduce legislation to protect Mueller from possible retaliation or removal. It is important to keep him on the job so that the American people can have confidence in the results of the investigation, whatever they may be.

As always, thank you for the honor of representing you in Congress.

Best wishes,



Carol

This week's press releases

- [Shea-Porter, VA Secretary Shulkin Discuss Manchester VA Concerns with Employees at Town Hall](#)
- [Shea-Porter Visits Lydia's House of Hope in Somersworth](#)
- [Shea-Porter Visits Shoals Marine Laboratory, Discusses Sustainability with UNH Researchers and Students](#)

ICYMI

- [Fosters: Shea-Porter Visits Lydia's House of Hope](#)
- [The Guardian: 'New Hampshire is a drug-infested den' – Trump's comments raise bipartisan ire](#)



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